

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-6 are amended and claims 7-16 are added. The claims are amended for clarification purposes only. The amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims. The specification is amended to correct obvious typographical informalities. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claims 4-6 as being in improper form. Claims 4-6 are amended. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 4-6 be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Yang (U.S. Patent No. 6,135,718). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, Yang does not disclose or suggest a speed control circuit of a brushless DC fan motor which is driven by a drive circuit, the drive circuit including at least a differential amplifier that is linear in an input-output characteristic, and having a first input terminal to which a voltage signal for controlling the speed is inputted, and having a second input terminal to which a reference voltage signal is inputted, as recited in independent claim 1.

Specifically, the Office Action asserts that operational amplifier U1B in Fig. 2 of Yang corresponds to the claim 1 differential amplifier. However, the operational amplifier U1B in Fig. 2 of Yang is part of an electronic tachometer 80 that uses a band pass amplifier to amplify and convert a ripple signal from the current source amplifier 50 into a tachometer signal S_O . Thus, the electronic tachometer 80 which includes amplifier U1B does not "drive" or control the rotational speed of the fan 70 in Yang, but instead "monitors" the fan speed. Accordingly, U1B in Yang does not correspond to the claim 1 differential amplifier.

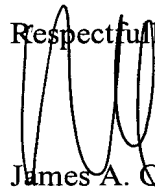
Furthermore, the amplifier U1B in Yang is not linear in an input-output characteristic. Thus, because the amplifier U1B in Yang is not linear in an input-output characteristic, it would be difficult to set a rise characteristic (the amplification degree) in the device. Any resulting device in Yang would have been similar to the device shown in Fig. 2 of the Applicant's patent application (and described in Applicant's Description of the Related Art, pages 1-5) which also fails to include a differential amplifier that is linear in an input-output characteristic. Thus, the device in Yang would have the same problems discussed in the background of Applicant's patent application (See Applicant's Description of the Related Art, page 4).

Accordingly, because Yang fails to disclose each and every claimed feature, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2-16 depend from independent claim 1 and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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